[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Why were they refused admission ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Because they were not using the roads before.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether there were Arya Samajists before?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The fact that one becomes an Arya Samajist will not alter the matter. For the information of the member, I will quote the case reported in 10, *T. L. R.*, in which the custom prohibiting particular communities from using public roads was recognised, even when particular individuals of such communities had become converts.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Was it about Vaikam ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : No about Nagercoil or some other place.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not ask any question about the *T. L. R.* My question is with regard to the opinion of Government in the matter.

PRESIDENT : The opinion of Government cannot form the subject of a question.

Violence of caste-Hindus at Vaikam.

53. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the caste-Hindus at Vaikam have organised themselves into a party to molest *Satyagraha* volunteers ; and,

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any action against them and, if so, what ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The member is referred to the answer* to Mr. Joseph Panjikaran's question.

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* The question and answer, which are not included in the Proceedings as the member was absent at question time, are reproduced below :

Alleged Maltreatment of Satyagrahis at Vaikam by some caste-Hindus.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*) : (*a*) Do the Government know that the *Satyagrahis* at Vaikam are being assaulted, belaboured and otherwise maltreated by a section of the caste-Hindus ?

(*b*) What steps have the Government taken to put a stop to such maltreatment, and if no steps have been taken, why ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : (*a*) and (*b*) The member's attention is invited to the Press Communiqué dated the 10th July 1924, published at page 542, Part I, of the *Government Gazette* dated the 17th July, 1924.

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MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Question (*a*) is "whether the caste-Hindus at Vaikam have organised themselves into a party to molest the *Satyagraha* volunteers." The answer given is not clear.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The answer is in the Press Communiqué itself.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not find it there. Will the member be pleased to refer to the portion which relates to the answer?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) :

"My enquiries go to show that they had no hand in the matter at all, and that the assailants on Congress volunteers were other than their men. The above leaders say that they are even ready to send their own men with the Congress volunteers to see that they are not molested".

That is what is said in the Press Communiqué.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : My question is whether a party of caste-Hindus was organised to molest the *Satyagraha* volunteers.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It was not organised to molest the *Satyagraha* volunteers.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether the *Satyagraha* volunteers were actually molested by this organisation?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : It is distinctly stated in the Press Communiqué itself.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Did the Government make any enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government asked the District Magistrate to enquire and report. He has sent his report.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Were the volunteers molested by the Police?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : He says that he was not aware of any molestation. He distinctly says what actually took place. He has narrated all details.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Do the Government believe that the Congress volunteers have not been molested?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The District Magistrate says so and Government accept that.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Do the Government propose to make an enquiry in regard to this matter?

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyer.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If there is any specific allegation about any particular incident, Government may enquire.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): There are many allegations.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If there are specific allegations against specific persons, the necessary enquiries will be made.

Police Violence at Vaikam.

54. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Have the Police at Vaikam snatched *charkas* from *Satyagrahis*?

(*b*) Have the Police used violence towards *Satyagraha* volunteers?

(*c*) If so, is it allowed by the Government?

(*d*) If it is not allowed, have the Government taken any action against the Police?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The member is referred to the answer to the question put by Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know, with regard to (*b*), whether the Police used violence towards the *Satyagraha* volunteers?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Police have not used violence towards the *Satyagraha* volunteers.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was any enquiry made?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The District Magistrate says that, except for some pushing at the time when the *charkas* were caught hold of, the Police did not use violence towards the *Satyagraha* volunteers. I do not know what sort of enquiry he held. After going to the place and making the necessary investigation and enquiry, he has sent his report.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether he actually made any enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He must have.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether he examined any witnesses?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not in a position to say definitely.

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